

away from themselves as problem solvers for themselves. As a result, they become dependent, and when they become dependent, they become less free. That is what this debate is all about.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I actually promised my colleague from Illinois that I would limit my response to 5 minutes, but I am so moved by what my colleague from Texas had to say, I would like to respond.

Mr. President, I hardly know where to start, but I can assure my colleague that it is quite possible to turn toward God and to turn toward religion and to have values and spirituality in your life and believe, as the Committee on Economic Development believed, a business organization which issued a report a few years ago, that one of the ways that we do well with an effective, successful private sector is to make sure that we invest in our children when they are young.

It is simply the case that if we do not invest in our children when they are young, making sure that each and every child has that equality of opportunity, which is what my parents taught me was what America was all about, then we pay the interest later on with high rates of illiteracy and dropout and drug addiction and crime and all of the rest.

Mr. President, when we talk about will there be a higher minimum wage, the answer from my colleague from Texas is no. From what I think I just heard my colleague say, when we talk about whether or not higher education will be affordable, for some sort of reason there is nothing the Government can do, we do not really need to have Pell grants or low-interest loans or work study, but, Mr. President, what has made this country a greater country is to make sure that each and every young person has that opportunity.

Nobody talked about the Government doing everything. That is a caricature. That is just sort of political debate.

We have a strong private sector, and that is what makes this country go round, but we also think there is a role for the public sector, and that is to make sure that we live up to the promise of this Nation, which is equality of opportunity.

I do not think the people in the United States of America believe that whether or not you receive adequate health care or not should be based upon whether or not you have an income. I think people believe that each and every citizen ought to have decent health care. I heard my colleague criticize the post office. I can tell you one thing, at least they do not deliver mail according to your income. Everybody gets their mail regardless of their income.

I heard my colleague talk about welfare. My God, you would think AFDC families caused the debt, caused the

deficit. I was not here during the years some of my colleague served here, but if my memory serves me correctly, in the early 1980's, we were told what you want to do is dramatically reduce taxes—that was euphemistically called—I ask my colleague from Illinois, I think I am correct—the Economic Recovery Act. What happened was we eroded the revenue base and moved away from any principle of progressivity, I say to my colleague. I am sorry he is not here.

Poor people do pay taxes. Many people are poor in the United States of America, work 40 hours a week, if not more, 52 weeks a year, and they pay Social Security taxes. More wage earners, more ordinary Americans pay more in Social Security taxes than in taxes. We have dramatically reduced the corporate rates and, indeed, there has been too much of a pressure on middle-income and working families. But this argument that the problem is that we have relied too much on an income tax just simply does not hold up by any kind of standard if you look at it with any rigor.

I think the welfare benefits, the AFDC benefits in some States—I cannot remember Texas—are about 20 percent of poverty. People in the United States of America believe the children have a right to be all that they can be. People in the United States of America believe we should invest in higher education. People in the United States of America believe that an educated, high-morale work force is critical to economic performance. And people in the United States of America believe that it is a combination of a strong private sector and also a Government that can effect good public policy that can lead to the improvement of lives of people in our communities that makes the difference. That is what this debate is about.

I yield the floor.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

BATTLE AGAINST POVERTY

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I will try not to strain the patience of my colleague from Washington.

First, in response to the dialog that has just taken place between the Senator from Texas and the Senator from Minnesota, the Government clearly is not the answer for all of our problems. But I would point out that when we had what was called a war on poverty—which was really not a war on poverty, but at least a battle against poverty—we ended up at one point with 16 percent of the children of America living in poverty, down from 23 percent. We are now back up to 23 percent, and we ought to do better. That is Government policy, it is private sector, it is all of us working together.

PEACEKEEPING CONTRIBUTION

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, Sunday's New York Times has an article entitled "Poll Finds American Support for Peacekeeping by U.N.," written by Barbara Crossette. It is a poll conducted of 1,204 people by the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland and by the Independent Center for the Study of Policy Attitudes in Washington.

Let me just read a couple of paragraphs:

There was a general perception among those polled that about 40 percent of United Nations peacekeeping troops are American, and that this should be halved to 20 percent. In fact, 4 percent of peacekeepers are American.

I do not know where the 4 percent figure in the Times comes from. The last figure I saw was as of March 6 and at that point, the United States was No. 20 in its contribution and less than 4 percent. Jordan, with 3 million people, was contributing more than twice as many peacekeepers as the United States with 250 million people. Nepal was ahead of us at that point.

The article also says:

Asked about the cost of the Federal budget of international peacekeeping, half of the sample in the poll gave a median estimate of 22 percent. Less than 1 percent of the military budget is actually spent on these operations . . .

Mr. President, we do have a choice here, and that is whether we are going to work with those countries or whether we are not. To use the old overworked phrase, if the United States is not going to be the policeman of the world, we have to work with other countries.

Here let me add that one of the things that we get all emotionally hung up about is whether U.S. troops can be under a non-U.S. commander. The reality is that back since George Washington had troops under a French commander, we have had troops under foreign commanders. I do not know why we get so hung up on this. It does not bother me, frankly, if the next NATO commander should be a Canadian, or a Brit, or an Italian, or one of the other NATO countries. I think that is a perfectly plausible thing.

If we want other countries to work with us around the world, we will, on occasion, have to have American troops under foreign commanders.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the New York Times article.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Apr. 30, 1995]

POLL FINDS AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR
PEACEKEEPING BY THE UNITED NATIONS

(By Barbara Crossette)

UNITED NATIONS, April 28.—As Congress considers making significant cuts in contributions to United Nations peacekeeping, the findings of a new study show that Americans may not only be supportive of such operations but are also willing to see missions